

# **PRESS** \_\_\_\_\_ **RELEASE**



**3780 Industrial Avenue S.  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815**

**DATE:** January 17, 2007

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Dave Stephenson, Urban Interface Planning Program Manager  
**Phone:** 208/666-8621  
**Fax:** 208/769-1524  
**Email:** [communitytrees@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:communitytrees@idl.idaho.gov)

## **Community Transportation Enhancement grants awarded to Idaho communities**

(Coeur d'Alene...January 17) Trees along streets, in parks or around businesses and public buildings are an asset to communities throughout the state. The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) Urban and Community Forestry Program—in partnership with the Idaho Transportation Department—have awarded Community Transportation Enhancement (CTE) grants to Idaho communities to enhance roads, bike and pedestrian pathways in and around their communities through landscaping.

A total of \$162,000 in Federal transportation enhancement funds will be awarded for projects and is expected to leverage over \$194,000. Successful applicants include Coeur d'Alene, Eagle, Idaho Falls, Ketchum, Moscow, Nampa, Pocatello, Post Falls, Sugar City and Ucon. Each will receive up to \$30,000 for their projects.

Twenty-two applications, seeking nearly \$319,000, were received for this year's grant program. Projects range from main street tree plantings to greenway, highway

interchange and community entrance enhancements.

While appreciated for their aesthetic beauty, trees and shrubs planted along our transportation corridors provide much more. They reduce stormwater runoff by absorbing large amounts of rainfall; reduce roadway maintenance costs by keeping pavement cool and shaded from damaging sunlight; increase safety by calming traffic and, by creating pleasant places to shop, encourage people to linger longer and spend more in our business districts. The list goes on and the economic benefits are significant.

Recognizing the importance of trees, more communities are seeking ways to plan for, plant and maintain this valuable resource. Educational and technical materials and assistance are also available free through IDL's Community Forestry Program. For information on these services contact David Stephenson @ 208-666-8621 / [communitytrees@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:communitytrees@idl.idaho.gov).

#####